

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Chignik Subsistence News Release #01

Emergency Order #4-FS-L-SUB-01-13

Only 951 Chinook salmon have been counted through the Chignik River weir as of July 25. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook salmon will be achieved.

Within the Chignik Bay and Central districts of the Chignik Management Area Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken in the commercial salmon fishery, may not be retained and must be returned to the water unharmed. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish has announced that sport fishing for Chinook salmon in the Chignik Lake drainage will close at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 26, 2013.

In an effort to conserve Chignik River Chinook salmon, in accordance with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board, Chinook salmon in the Chignik River drainage may not be retained in the subsistence fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 27, 2013 until Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. December 31 2013, Chinook salmon in the Chignik River drainage, from Mensis Point upstream including Chignik Lake and its tributaries may not be retained in the subsistence fishery.

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Chinook salmon escapement into the Chignik River system will continue to be monitored daily. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strength. If the Chignik River Chinook salmon run sufficiently improves, the subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to provide additional opportunity.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence Board assures a subsistence priority for rural residents as provided by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release and fishery restriction has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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